(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard and by when the said social groups would be recognised as tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There were demands for inclusion of Banjara and Anwal communities in the Scheduled Tribes list of undivided Uttar Pradesh. A request has been received from the State Government of Uttarakhand for inclusion of Banjara community in Scheduled Tribes list of Uttarakhand, but the State Government of Uttarakhand did not recommend the inclusion of Anwal community in ST list of Uttarakhand. Proposals for inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes are considered on the following criteria (i) Indications of primitive traits, (ii) Distinctive culture, (iii) Geographical isolation, (iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and (v) Backwardness. The Government in June, 1999, had approved these modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in and exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists, which requires consent of the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

(c) The proposal of Banjara community for inclusion in Scheduled Tribes list of Uttarakhand has been processed, as per the approved modalities, which requires consensus of the three aforementioned agencies and this takes time. Therefore, no specific time-frame can be mentioned at present.

Decline in living stadards of Vanrawats and Buxa in Uttarakhand

†2276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is constant decline in the standards of living of 'Vanrawats' a primitive tribe and Buxa, a Scheduled Tribe in Uttarakhand and the infant mortality rate and the average age amongst them is also on the decline; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to improve their living standards and the amount proposed to be spent thereon during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI. P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The notified Scheduled Tribes of Uttarakhand are Bhotia, Buksa, Jaunsari, Raji and Tharu. But tribe-wise information on standards of living, infant mortality rate and average age is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

Safety of adivasis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

†2277. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee constituted by Government has observed that, due to increasing population and construction activities, the existence of adivasis (tribals) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is in constant danger;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their safety?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The recently constituted Committee of experts set up internally by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has discussed, among others, the issues of alarming increase in the population and large scale construction activity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and its impact on the primitive tribal groups as well as the environment of the islands. In this connection, the Ministry of Home Affairs which is the concerned administrative Ministry for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have intimated that they have notified a policy for the preservation and protection of the Jarawa tribe wherein no encroachment in the Jarawa Reserve is allowed and traffic through the Jarawa territory is regulated to ensure that there is no detrimental interaction between the tribal population and passing tourists. Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs has already directed the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to make an assessment of the influx of population into the Islands to enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to take appropriate measures accordingly.

Hostels for tribal students

†2278. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of boys' and girls' hostels constructed for tribal students during last three years, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) The number and details of the hostels, out of the approved ones for such students, which have not been constructed yet and the reasons therefor; and

(c) The amount of financial assistance allocated and released for these hostels during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (c) The number of Boys' and Girls' Hostels for ST students sanctioned by the Ministry during the last three years to various State Governments/UTs, with their locations and the amount of financial assistance sanctioned is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The scheme of financial assistance to the State Governments for Boys' and Girls' Hostels is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme meant only for construction of hostel buildings and is funded by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. In order to complete construction, the State Governments are required to release their matching share of the cost. Under the scheme, escalation cost, if any, is also to be borne by the States concerned. No funds for fresh proposals for hostels are released unless Utilization Certificates for funds released in previous years have been received from the concerned States.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.